

# PURPOSE, MISSION, AND RESOURCE SIGNIFICANCE

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The purpose of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve is to:

- *Preserve and interpret, for public use and benefit, the diversity of cultural resources of the site (people and places) that are associated with the indigenous peoples, Euro-American exploration, trade and settlement, aviation, industrial, political, and military influence in the Pacific Northwest.*
- *Manage public lands within the Reserve through cooperative public and private partnerships.*

The significance of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve:

*The Vancouver National Historic Reserve is an excellent example of connected historic properties that contain tangible evidence that successfully conveys the effects of overlapping settlement patterns. The Vancouver area was the primary place of 19th century social, economic, and political systems in the Pacific Northwest.*

The National Park Service works with the Reserve partners, the Reserve Trust, and others in creating and supporting education, interpretation, and cultural resources management for the Reserve. Specifically the purpose of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is to preserve and interpret the following:

- *The site of the nineteenth century Hudson's Bay Company activities.*
- *Settlement of the Oregon Territory.*
- *The establishment of U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks.*

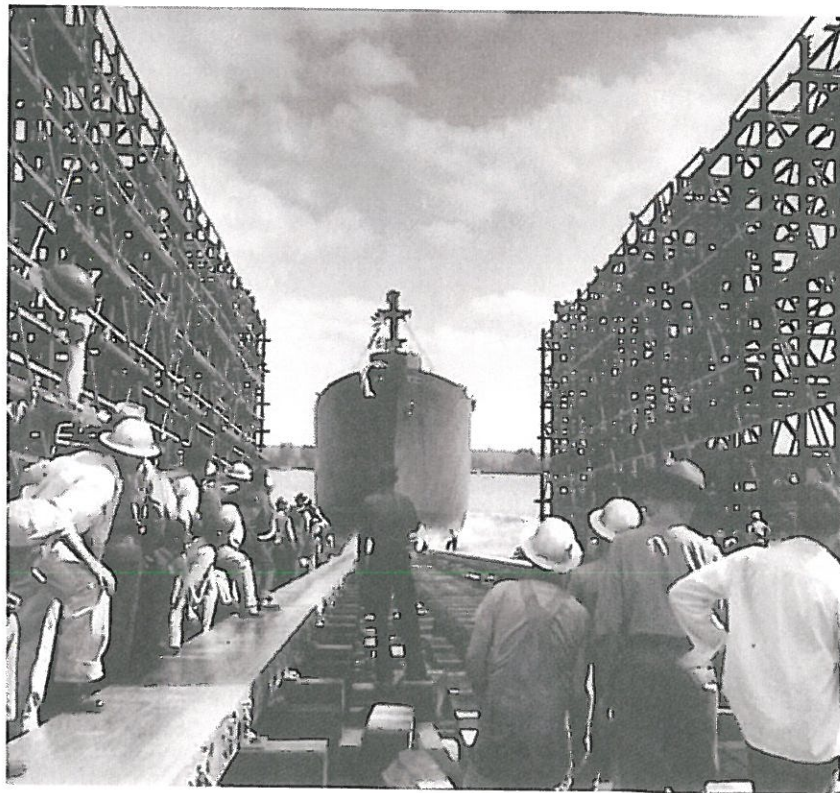
The significance of the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site:

- *From 1825 through 1849 Fort Vancouver was the site of the Hudson's Bay Company's administrative headquarters and supply depot west of the Rocky Mountains. As a result, the HBC greatly influenced the economic, political, and cultural development of the Pacific Northwest.*
- *Fort Vancouver was the Pacific Northwest center for fur trade and other commerce, agriculture, and industry between 1825 and 1849.*
- *Fort Vancouver was the first terminus of the Oregon Trail (water route along the Columbia River).*
- *Vancouver Barracks, established in 1849, was the first military post developed in the Pacific Northwest. It served as headquarters for the U.S. Army operations into the twentieth century.*

PURPOSE, MISSION, AND RESOURCE SIGNIFICANCE

- *Fort Vancouver NHS contains extensive archaeological resources, both in situ (in original location) and recovered, that provide important information about the physical relationships and the cultural and economic operation of the Hudson's Bay Company and the U.S. Army.*

The Vancouver National Historic Reserve is made up of sites managed by the partners that support the overall mission of the Reserve through a variety of educational and interpretive opportunities. Each site's mission and purpose brings a unique perspective for the interpretation of the Reserve. There also exists a diversity of partnership expertise, which lends to a dynamic visitor learning experience.





# The National Park System

## Caring for the American Legacy

*"...to **promote** and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."*

National Park Service Organic Act, 16 U.S.C.1.

Mission  
Legacy  
Business  
Acreage  
Legal  
Criteria  
Local  
Support  
Stewardship  
Field Offices  
Parks

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

To achieve this mission, the National Park Service adheres to the following guiding principles:

Excellent Service: *Providing the best possible service to park visitors and partners.*

Productive Partnerships: *Collaborating with federal, state, tribal, and local governments, private organizations, and businesses to work toward common goals.*

Citizen Involvement: *Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in the decisions and actions of the National Park Service.*

Heritage Education: *Educating park visitors and the general public about their history and common heritage.*

Outstanding Employees: *Empowering a diverse workforce committed to excellence, integrity, and quality work.*

Employee Development: *Providing developmental opportunities and training so employees have the , "tools to do the job" safely and efficiently.*

Wise Decisions: *Integrating social, economic, environmental, and ethical considerations into the decision -making process.*

Effective Management: *Instilling a performance management philosophy that fosters creativity, focuses on results, and requires accountability at all levels.*

Research and Technology: *Incorporating research findings and new technologies to improve work practices, products, and services.*

Shared Capabilities: *Sharing technical information and expertise with*

*public and private land managers.*

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service, a new federal bureau in the Department of the Interior responsible for protecting the 40 national parks and monuments then in existence and those yet to be established.

This "Organic Act" of August 25, 1916, states that "the Service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations . . . by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The National Park Service still strives to meet those original goals, while filling many other roles as well: guardian of our diverse cultural and recreational resources; environmental advocate; world leader in the parks and preservation community; and pioneer in the drive to protect America's open space.

The National Park System of the United States comprises 384 areas covering more than 83 million acres in 49 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan, and the Virgin Islands. These areas are of such national significance as to justify special recognition and protection in accordance with various acts of Congress.

By Act of March 1, 1872, Congress established Yellowstone National Park in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming "as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" and placed it "under exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior." The founding of Yellowstone National Park began a worldwide national park movement. Today more than 100 nations contain some 1,200 national parks or equivalent preserves.

In the years following the establishment of Yellowstone, the United States authorized additional national parks and monuments, most of them carved from the federal lands of the West. These, also, were administered by the Department of the Interior, while other monuments and natural and historical areas were administered as separate units by the War Department and the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. No single agency provided unified management of the varied federal parklands.

An Executive Order in 1933 transferred 63 national monuments and military sites from the Forest Service and the War Department to the National Park Service. This action was a major step in the development of today's truly national system of parks—a system that includes areas of historical as well as scenic and scientific importance.

Congress declared in the General Authorities Act of 1970 "that the National Park System, which began with the establishment of Yellowstone National

Park in 1872, has since grown to include superlative natural, historic, and recreation areas in every region ... and that it is the purpose of this Act to include all such areas in the System...."

Additions to the National Park System are now generally made through acts of Congress, and national parks can be created only through such acts. But the President has authority, under the Antiquities Act of 1906, to proclaim national monuments on lands already under federal jurisdiction. The Secretary of the Interior is usually asked by Congress for recommendations on proposed additions to the System. The Secretary is counseled by the National Park System Advisory Board, composed of private citizens, which advises on possible additions to the System and policies for its management.

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